



## COYAC Statutes:

## Updating Outdated Language and Including Equity

### COYAC Enabling Legislation

[HB08-1157](#) Concerning the creation of a Youth Advisory Council, and making an appropriation therefore.

[SB13-148](#) Concerning continuation of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council.

[HB19-1024](#) Concerning creation of the Colorado youth advisory council review committee, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

[HB20-1021](#) Concerning the addition of representatives from Native American tribes with reservations in Colorado to the Colorado youth advisory council.

### Problems and Solutions

- (1) [SB13-148](#), [HB08-1157](#) **Page 2-2-1303, Section 3A** – The prescribed member selection process is time-consuming and allows for bias. As the application process is left largely unspecified, there is room for inequitable decisions in the selection process. Moreover, current language reflects an application season closing in May. This no longer reflects COYAC practices.

#### **Solution**

COYAC recommends a blind review and evaluation process with scoring sheets instead of a council member vote. This will reduce bias against candidates.

- (2) **Rural Members Struggle to Attend In-Person Events** – Many rural youth cannot travel to in-person meetings. The required time driving is unattainable and puts strain on youth and their families. This leads to the underrepresentation of rural youth during in-person meetings.

**Current text of HB08-1157, Page 5, Section 2-2-1304, 2b**

THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR, WITH TWO MEETINGS OCCURRING DURING THE REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND TWO MEETINGS OCCURRING AFTER THE REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION HAS CONCLUDED.

**Solution**

**Online Options Help Rural Youth** – Add bill language to explicitly allow virtual meetings. Members must be able to attend meetings online or in-person. Zoom meetings or similar online platforms offer the opportunity for more members to participate.